

The 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

CISO
College & Institute
Student Outcomes

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SURVEY RESPONDENTS

In the spring of 2004, the College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey was administered to well over half of all the BC college, university college, and institute students who had left their programs of study the year before. The majority of these former students had been enrolled in Applied programs. These are programs designed to lead to employment in a specific field. Almost a quarter of survey respondents had been in 1st and 2nd year Arts and Sciences programs, which

Of the former students surveyed

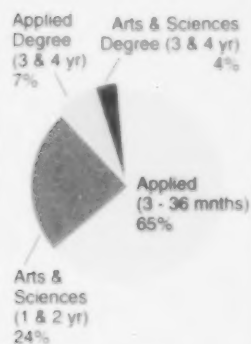
- 82% were in the labour force
- 9% of those in the labour force were unemployed
- 10% had taken distributed education courses
- 84% said quality of instruction was good or very good
- 86% were satisfied with their education
- 43% took further studies after leaving

generally lead to further studies. Eleven percent of respondents had taken degree programs (Applied or Arts and Sciences).

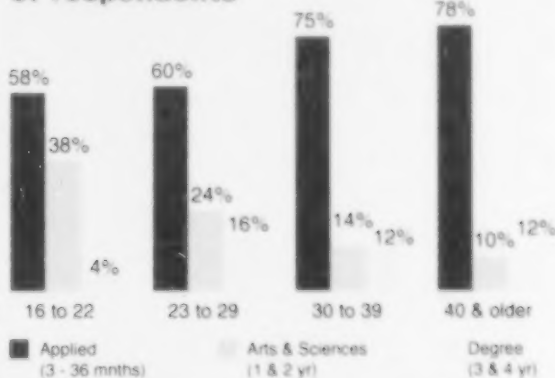
At the time of the survey, the median age of respondents was 25. Those who had taken non-degree (3 to 36 month) Applied programs had a median age of 26,

compared with 23 for former 1st and 2nd year Arts and Sciences students. The highest proportion of those who had taken degree programs were 23 to 29 when surveyed. Younger respondents had gravitated toward Arts and Sciences programs, while most of those 30 and older had chosen Applied programs.

Type of program taken by former students



Type of program taken, by age of respondents



ABOUT THE SURVEY

The BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey is an annual province-wide survey conducted with funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and from BC's public colleges, university colleges, and institutes. For the 2004 survey, conducted between January and May, 18,000 former students were interviewed by telephone, 9-20 months after they left their post-secondary programs. They were asked to evaluate many aspects of their educational experience and to talk about their employment outcomes, further education, and personal development. Highlights from that survey are presented here.

EVALUATIONS

Former students were asked if their studies had given them opportunities to develop certain skills. In general, most respondents said their programs had done well or very well at helping them develop such skills as *working effectively with others* or *analysing and thinking critically*.

Some respondents noted that certain skills had not been applicable to their studies: for example, 14 percent reported that the *ability to*

write clearly and concisely had not been relevant. Of those who said it was applicable, approximately three-quarters gave it a high rating.

Overall, former students gave quite good ratings to many aspects of their programs: 84 percent said the *quality of instruction* had been good or very good, and 79 percent gave the same rating to the *availability of instructors outside*

class. The *amount of practical experience* offered by the program was rated a little lower, at 71 percent. Practical experience was deemed *not applicable* by 19 percent of former Arts and Sciences students and by 3 percent of those from Applied programs.

Program did well or very well helping former students develop skills

Work effectively with others	84%
Analyse and think critically	84%
Read and comprehend material	82%
Learn independently	81%
Resolve issues and problems	76%
Write clearly and concisely	74%

(Of respondents who said the item was applicable)

Selected aspects of program rated good or very good, by program type

Quality of instruction

Applied (3 - 36 mnths)	82%
Arts & Sciences (1 & 2 yr)	87%
Degree (3 & 4 yr)	83%

Amount of practical experience

Applied (3 - 36 mnths)	76%
Arts & Sciences (1 & 2 yr)	56%
Degree (3 & 4 yr)	63%

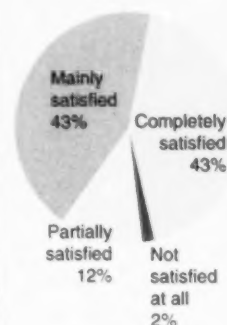
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SATISFACTION

Consistent with the findings of previous years, the overall satisfaction rate was high: 86 percent of the former students surveyed said they were mainly or completely satisfied with the education they received.

As well, survey respondents reported their satisfaction in more specific ways. Of those who continued studying, 55 percent said they had been *very well* prepared for their further studies. Of employed respondents, 46 percent reported that the knowledge and skills they had gained in their program were *very* useful in performing their jobs. Another 31 percent of employed respondents said what they gained had been *somewhat* useful for their jobs.

Satisfied with education received



EMPLOYMENT

Three-quarters of the former students surveyed reported that they were employed; 82 percent were in the labour force (employed or looking for work and not studying full-time). The unemployment rate (the percentage of those in the labour force who were not employed) was 9 percent.

At the time of the survey, almost two-thirds of respondents from non-degree Applied programs or from 3rd and 4th year degree programs were *working only*, that is, working and not taking any further education. Respondents from 1st and 2nd year Arts and Sciences programs were very likely to be continuing their studies, whether working or not.

Close to two-thirds (64 percent) of employed respondents were in a job they felt was related to their training. Of those who were *working only*, 71 percent said they were in a training-related job.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Since leaving their institute, college, or university college

programs, 43 percent of former students surveyed had taken some type of further education. At the time of the survey, 38 percent were continuing their studies.

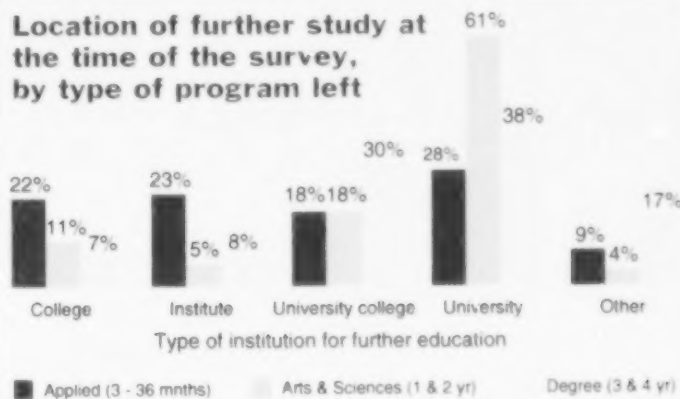
Of the respondents who were continuing, 44 percent were studying at a university, 30 percent at a college or institute, and 19 percent at a university college.

Almost 70 percent of former 1st and 2nd year Arts and Sciences students were studying at the time of the survey; the majority, at a university.

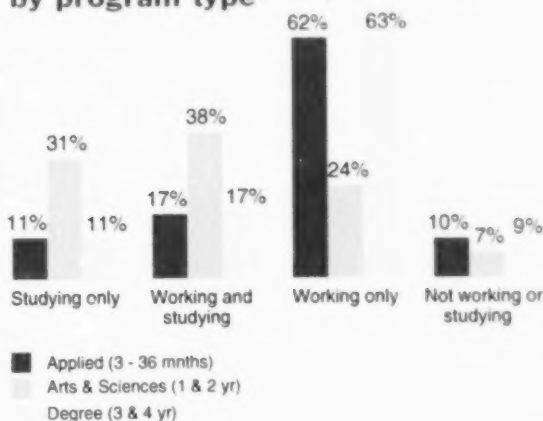
Two-thirds of those who had taken further studies or who were continuing their education at the time of the survey reported that they had expected to transfer credits to a new

institution—89 percent received their expected credits and 87 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the transfer experience.

Location of further study at the time of the survey, by type of program left

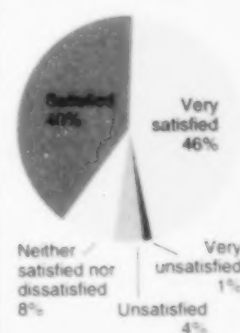


Activity at the time of the survey, by program type



Students who had left programs at institutes were most likely to return to an institute to continue their studies (56 percent); those who had left studies at colleges were most likely to go to university (59 percent); and those who left university colleges were most likely to return to them (46 percent).

Satisfied with the transfer experience



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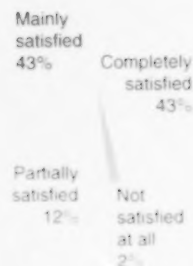
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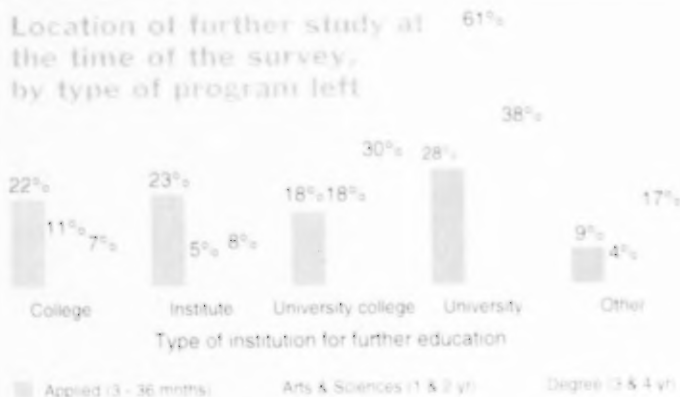
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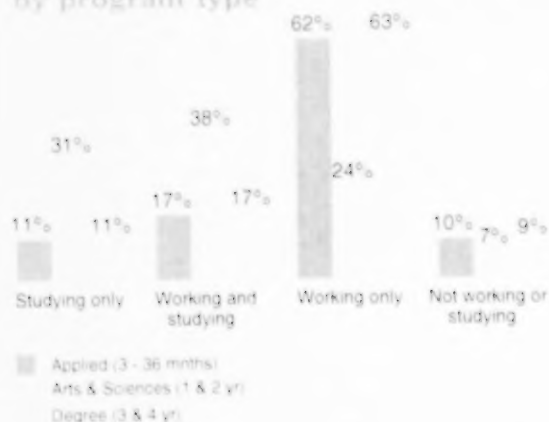
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Ten percent of survey respondents had taken a distributed education course, that is, a course delivered through some technological means. Of that 10 percent, 94 percent had taken a course either entirely or partially online. *Online* implies that some or all of the course involves interactive study via the Internet; it does not mean

simply receiving notes or sending assignments via email.

Almost half (48 percent) of those who had taken online courses did so because the course was available only in that format. On the other hand, 43 percent said they had taken the course because it

was convenient or solved travel problems.

Of those who had taken an online course, 79 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the course and delivery format.

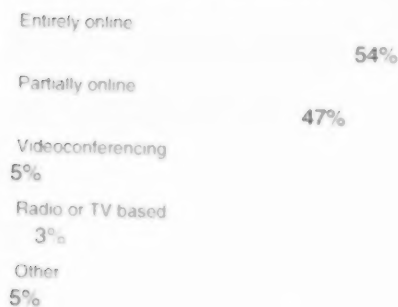
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to help them make informed post-secondary education choices.

For more information on BC student outcomes, please see

or visit the institutional research department of your college, university college, or institute.

Delivery methods of distributed education



Satisfied with online courses



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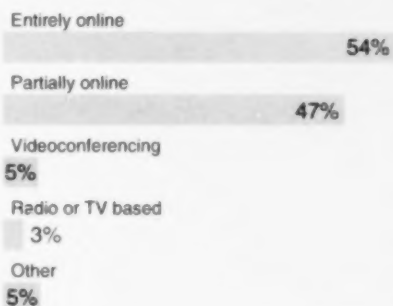
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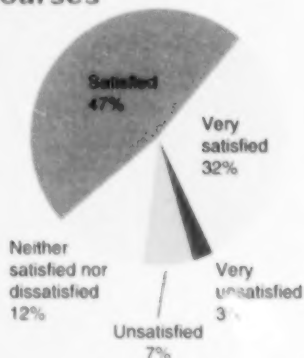
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